

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

8TH MAY 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 4.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the Quarter 4 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 - (Rhondda Cynon Taff) 2018 - 2019

Collated Quarterly Report

Quarter 4: January 2019 - March 2019

Headline Report

Referrals

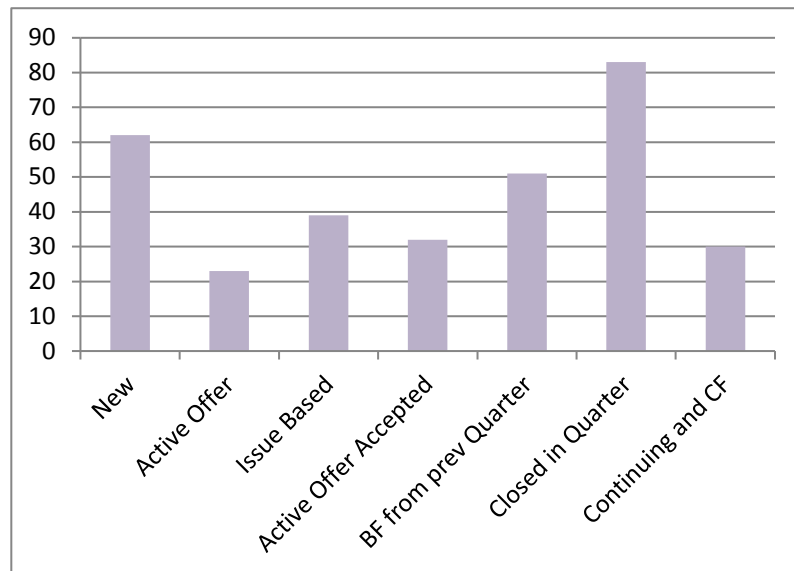
54 new referrals were received in the period which included 23 Active Offer of Advocacy referrals and 31 Issue based referrals.

Of the 23 active offer of advocacy referrals 21 face to face meetings took place of which 8 young people requested further advocacy support. 1 referral was unable to be contacted despite various attempts by the service and 1 referral will be carried over into April. . 22 active offer referrals are now closed. The majority of cyp referred for an Active Offer were aged 6-11.

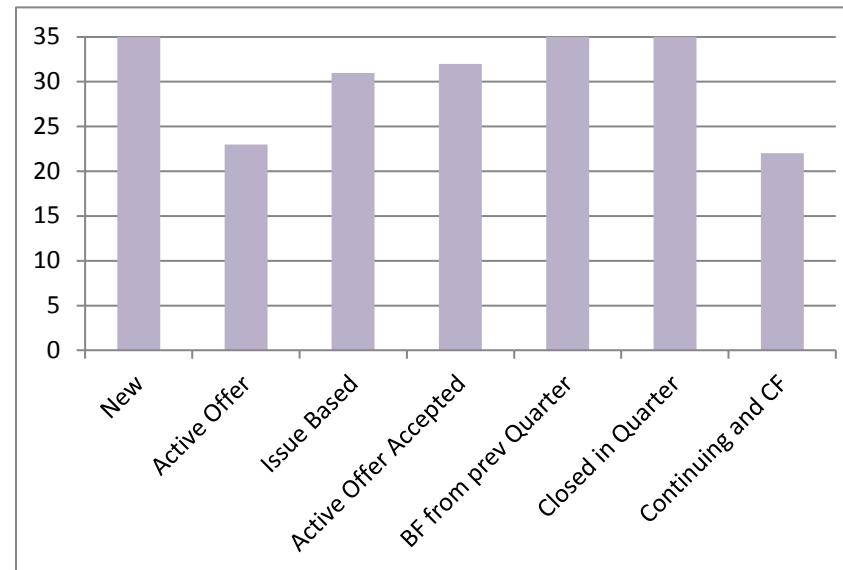
of the 31 issue based refferals 39 issues were presented for advocay support. The majority of these young people were aged 12-16. 16 young people requested Advocacy support at meetings which included 7 CLA Reviews, 7 cyp subject to CP processes and 2 Education meetings. 7 cyp requested support with regard to issues around Placement.4 cyp requested Advocacy support with regard to Contact with family members.

NYAS have supported young people placed out of county this quarter, this consisted of Bristol,Caerphilly, Ebbw Vale,Hengoed, Neath, Newport,Swansea. 15 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.

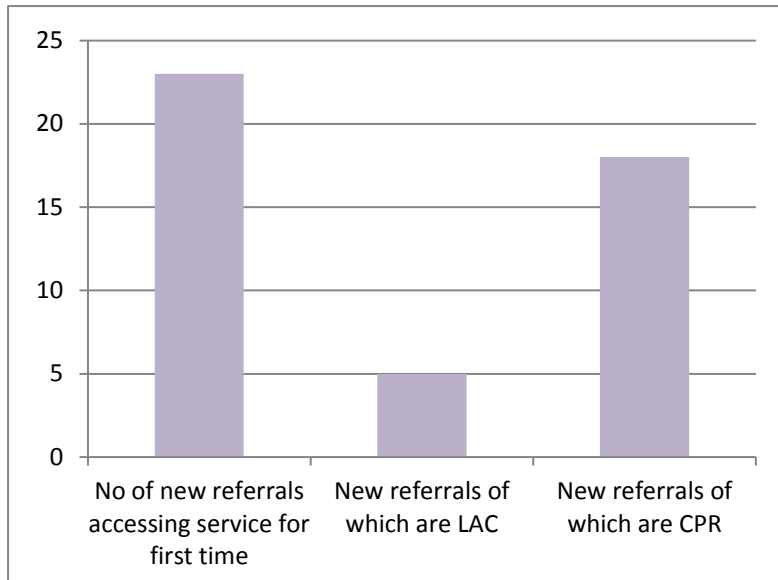
1. Advocacy Cases - Issues



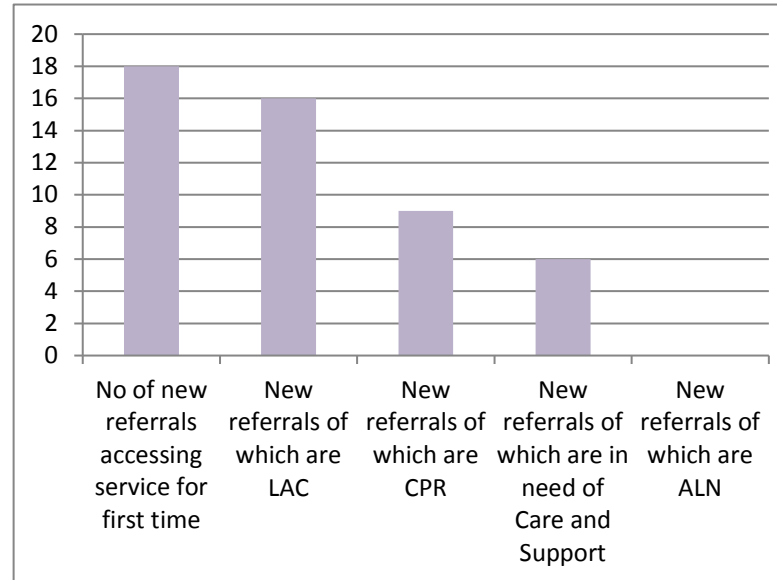
Advocacy Cases - Young People



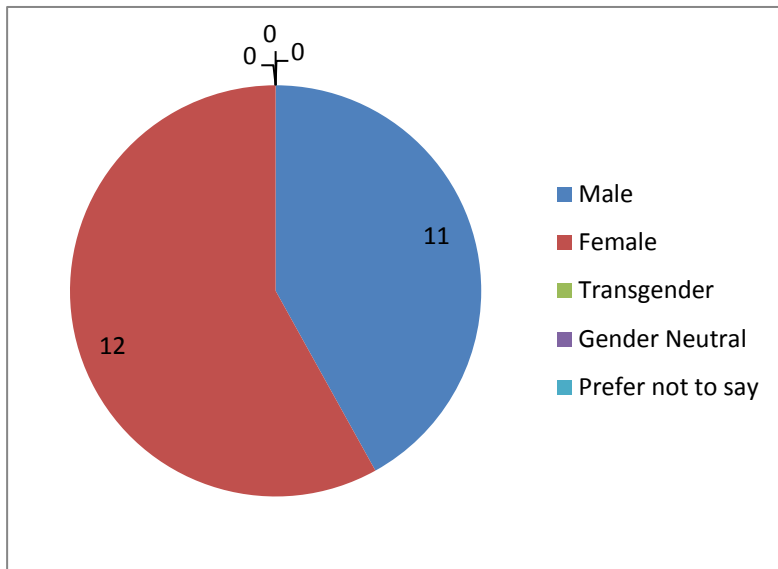
2. Eligibility Criteria: Active Offer



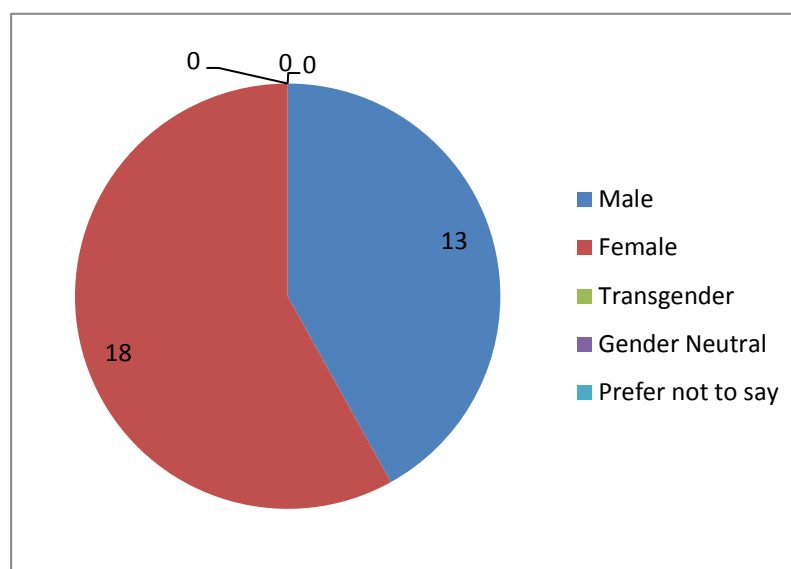
Eligibility criteria: Issue Based



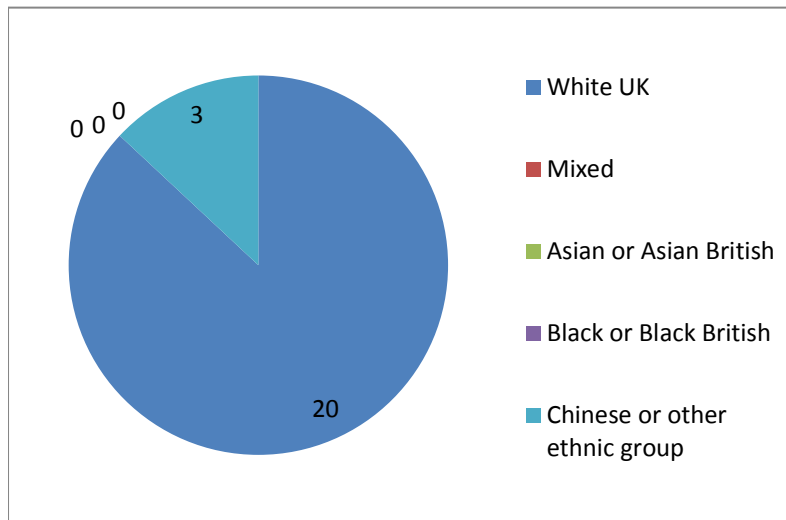
3a. Demographics: Gender - Active Offer



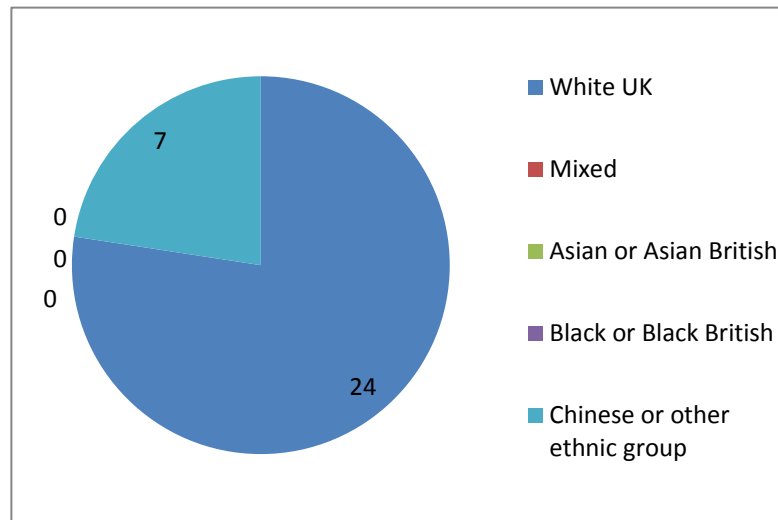
Demographics: Gender - Issue Based



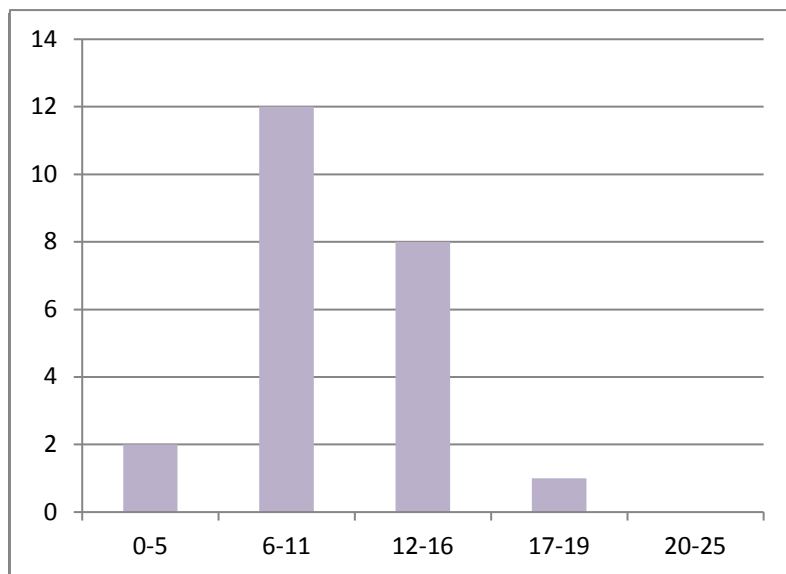
3b. Demographics: Ethnicity - Active Offer



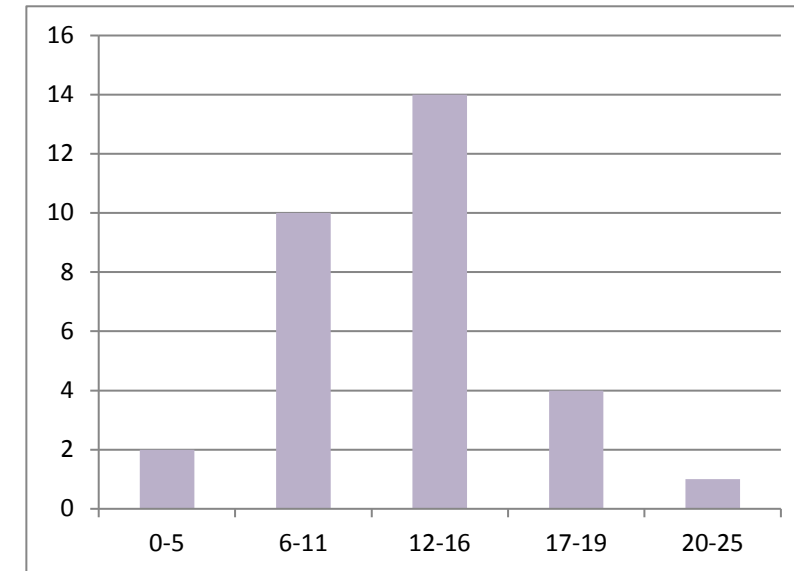
Demographics: Ethnicity - Issue Based



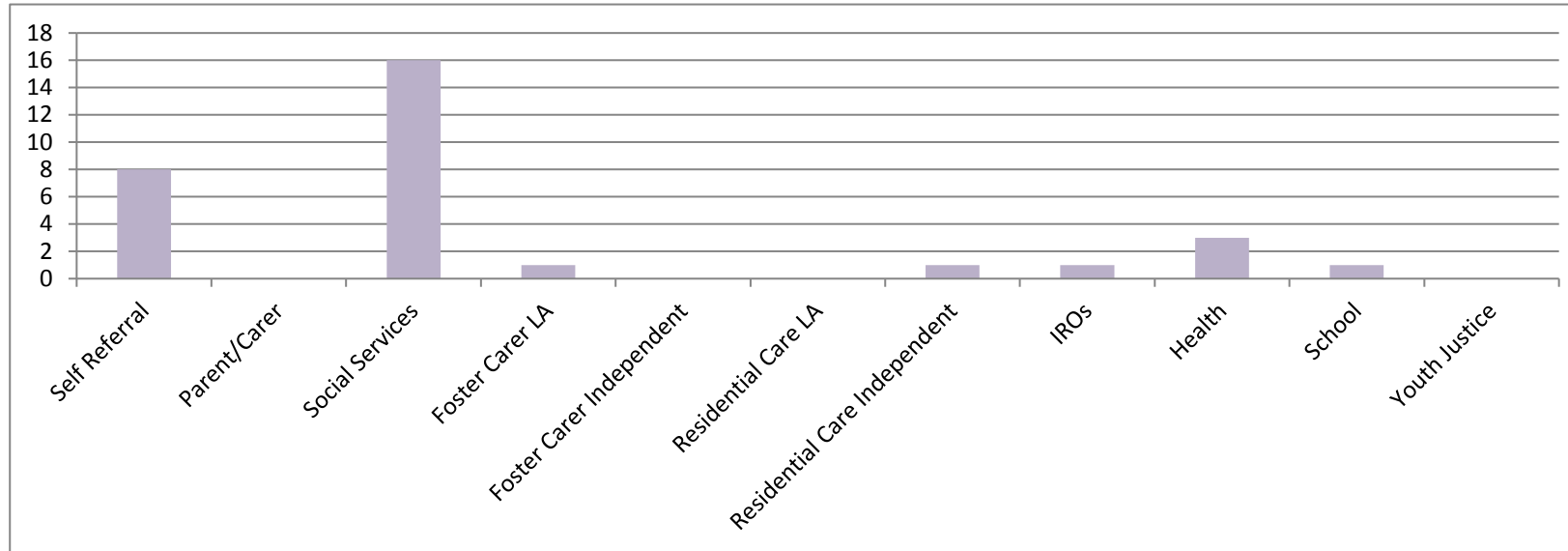
3c. Demographics: Age - Active Offer



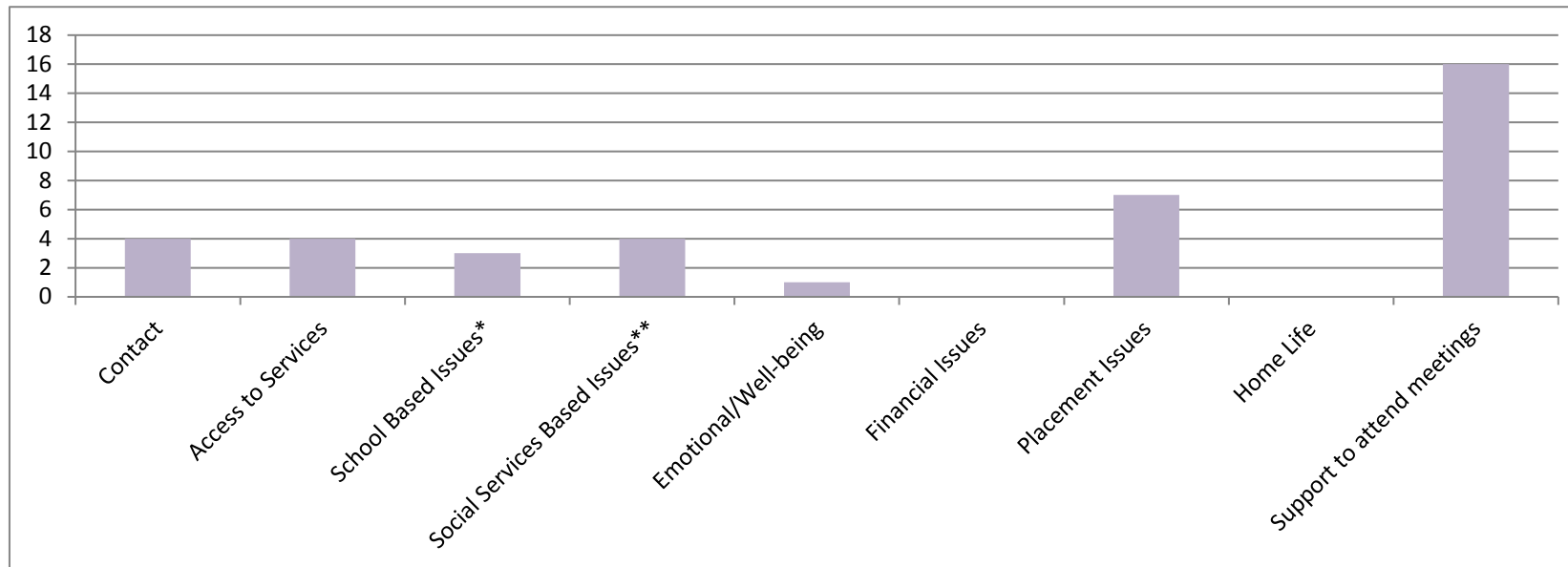
Demographics: Age - Issue Based



4. Referral Source - Issue Based only



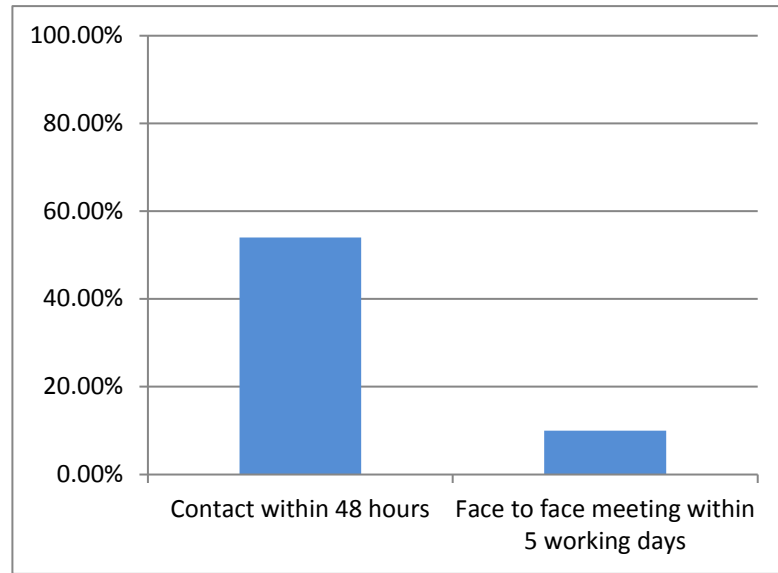
5. Nature of Primary Issue Presented



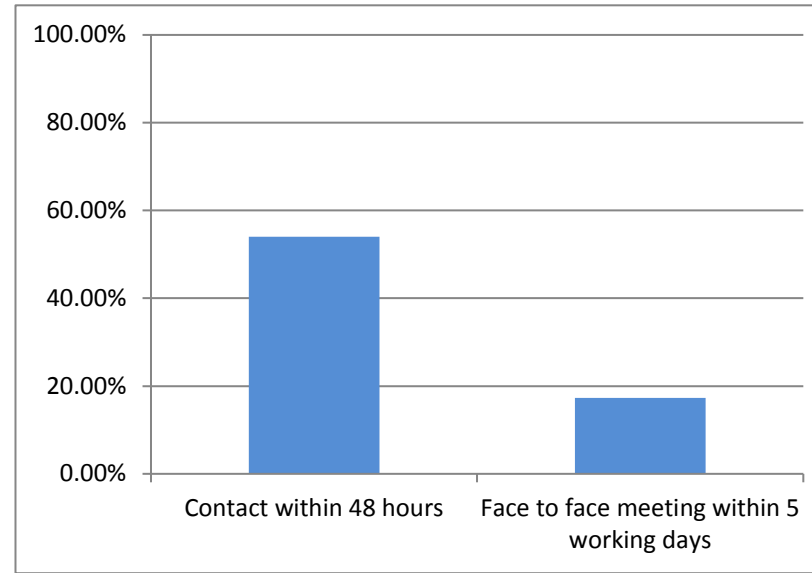
* School based issues including: SEN/ALN, exclusions, bullying, transport.

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

6. Service Performance - Active Offer



Service Performance - Issue Based



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 complants received against the advocacy service.</p>	<p>Confidentiality was explained to 52 CYP.(1 YP NYAS sent a Letter to as unable to contact and 1 referral carried forward to April.)</p> <p>None</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>49 -young people english speaking. Other Languges-2 -1 Iraqi Kurdish speaking young person and 1 Vietnamese speaking young person.NYAS publicity is bi-lingual and services are also offered in Welsh to all cyp.</p> <p>1 young carer was signposted to other service for Housing advice. 1 yp a recent care leaver and vulnerable adult further support needed. 2 yp with ALN needs. 1 of whom is a young parent.</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>Translation/Interpretation support-2 young people.A Kurdish Interpreter accompanied an Advocate for an Iraqi young person.A Vietnamese Interpreter accompanied an Advocate for the same young person's initial active offer visit and then issue based referral.</p> <p>24 cyp fed back their wishes and feelings were heard -including:- " I was able to voice my questions for the 1st time with my Advocates support at the Meeting.I had answers to all of the questions on my list I was so pleased."</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>Participation opportunities for CYP included:-NYAS are working with Photo Voice to engage care experienced YP aged 18-24 to reflect their views and document their journey through the medium of photography which can be used in a toolkit for Stakeholders around their care & support. NYAS commissioned by Human Rights NGO Amnesty to devise a Childrens Rights Leaflet which will then be distributed as a free resource. Our Peer Mentoring service continues to deliver training to increase YP employability skills in identified areas.(i think Elly sent out sone blurb</p>

8. Summary

So what does this tell us? From the 95 children and young people eligible for the active offer only 23 referrals were received. This equates to 25% of those entitled to the service. This figure is low in comparison to the referrals rates for the active offer in comparison to other local authority areas. Although we have seen a higher referral rate for the active offer for those children and young people in CP processes, we have seen a lower referral rate for those who care looked after. NYAS recommends further work with children's service to explore the reasons for the low percentage rate and to understand the reason for the decline in active offer figures over this quarter. This discussion will allow for a robust development plan to be agreed to ensure all eligible children and young people are offered the active offer of advocacy.

Identify trends: - Active Offer referrals have declined in this quarter, as noted above as the majority of eligible cyp referred to NYAS accept an Active Offer visit this is something RCT need to explore in their referral processes. Issue based referrals have slightly increased as have referrals from children's services professionals. This would also indicate the actions we were able to implement from our previous RCT quarterly monitoring meeting has slightly improved both Issue based referrals and referrals from children's services. There were no referrals received from foster carers, as with the previous quarter. The highest Issue or number of requests remained for Advocacy support in Meetings-it is positive that cyp trust NYAS Advocacy to continue to support their views being taken forward at Meetings, however NYAS would recommend children's service explore how meetings can be influenced to change to ensure all children and young people feel confident and comfortable to attend and self-advocate their views wishes and feelings.

Other positive outcomes -closed cases. A young care leaver on a care and support plan self-referred to NYAS. YP had disengaged from all support and become temporarily homeless.Following a discussion with their requested Advocate the young person accepted and re-engaged with support from Leaving Care Team which enabled them to move nearer home and regained contact with family members.The yp fed back "Thank you so much for speaking to my social worker who is taking me to get my life story book-thats so important to me and see my family.I'll be visiting and staying with my Nan and I've moved back to Wales. I am so much happier now."3rd Party feedback- from social worker- "NYAS Advocacy has helped in listening and speaking to X so much. X has re-engaged with services, is accepting additional support as felt/identified is needed and is doing well in new flat.Also X has maturely made contact again with family members and is now regularly attending appointments in our Drop-In centre in Pontypridd. The difference Advocacy has made to this young person has been amazing."

Awareness raising undertaken:- Awareness raising undertaken-Danielle Shaw visited the 16+ Team to provide information on the Newid