



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

24TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

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 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the Quarter 1 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...'

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.

Regional Independent Advocacy Service

Rhonda Cynon Taff Quarterly Report

Collated Quarterly Report

Quarter 1:

1st April 2018 - 30th June 2018

Headline Report

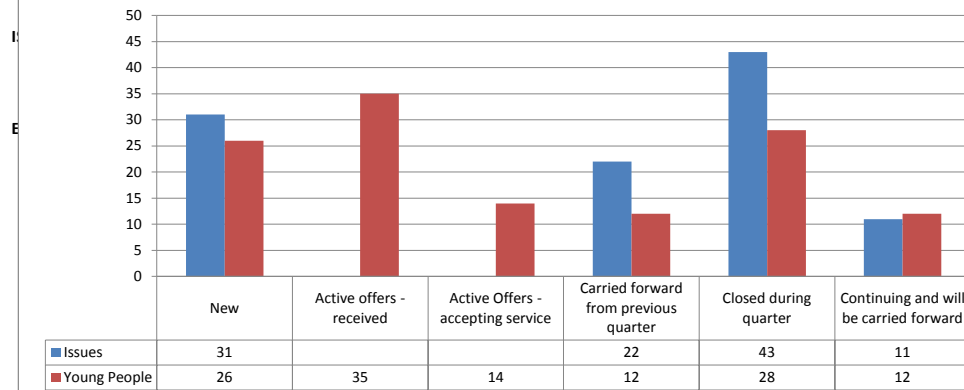
REFERRALS

61 new referrals were received in the period which included 35 Active Offers of Advocacy referrals and 26 Issue based referrals. Of the 35 Active Offers of Advocacy referrals made 17 Active offer meetings took place from which 13 of the young people requested further issue based advocacy support. From the 26 Issue based referrals, 31 issues were supported by the advocacy service. 32 of the issue based referrals have now closed. The majority of young people referred to the service this quarter were aged 12-16.

ISSUES

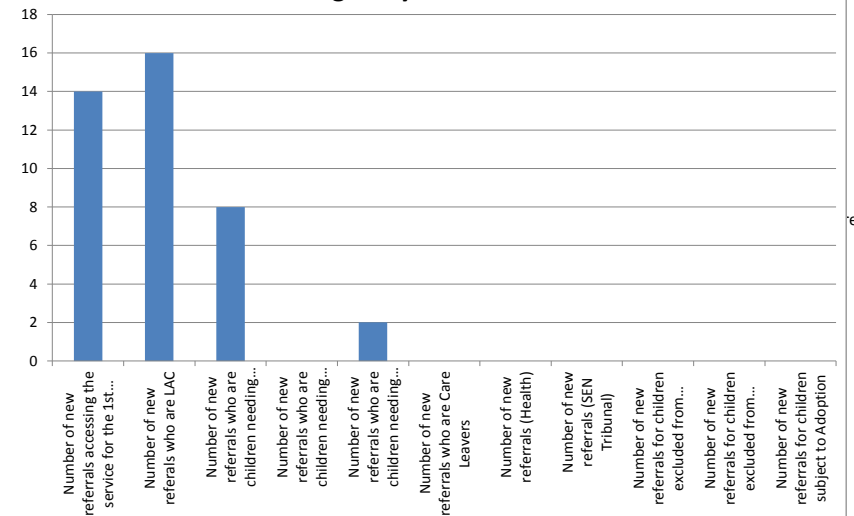
Advocacy support at meetings was the highest referral issue this period. We have attended, supported and represented children and young people at 23 formal meetings which included :- 14 CLAR/LAC Review meetings, 8 meetings for young people involved in child protection processes and 1 education meeting. In addition to the service NYAS has supported 2 spot-purchase requests to provide an Independent Person in secure reviews.

Advocacy Cases - Number of Issues and Young People



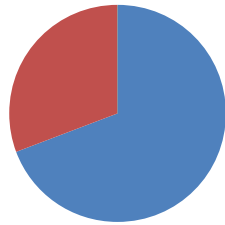
Reasons given by young people for not accepting Active Offer (where known)

Eligibility Criteria



Demographic Information

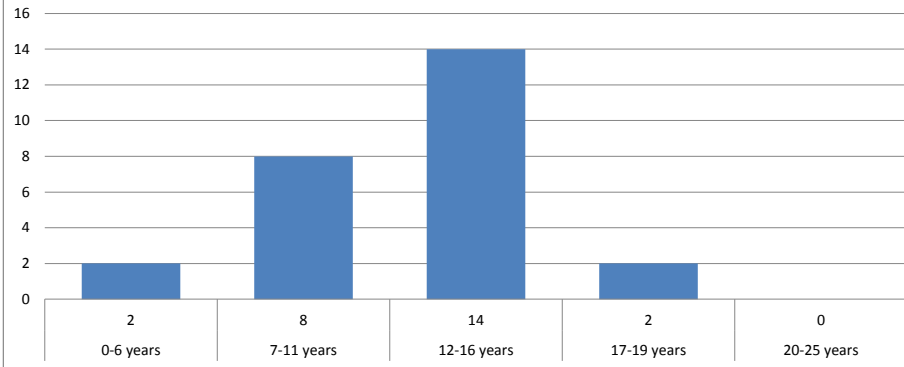
Gender of Young People



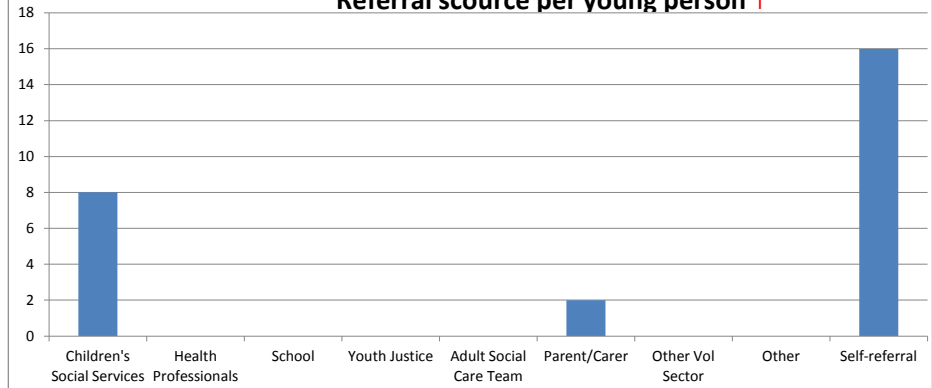
ETHNICITY

- Category 1 - White Welsh - 1
- Category 2 - White UK - 21
- Category 3 - Asian - 1
- Category 4 - Kurdish - 2
- Category 5 - Black Other -

Age of Young People

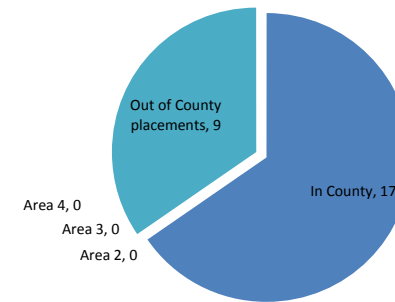


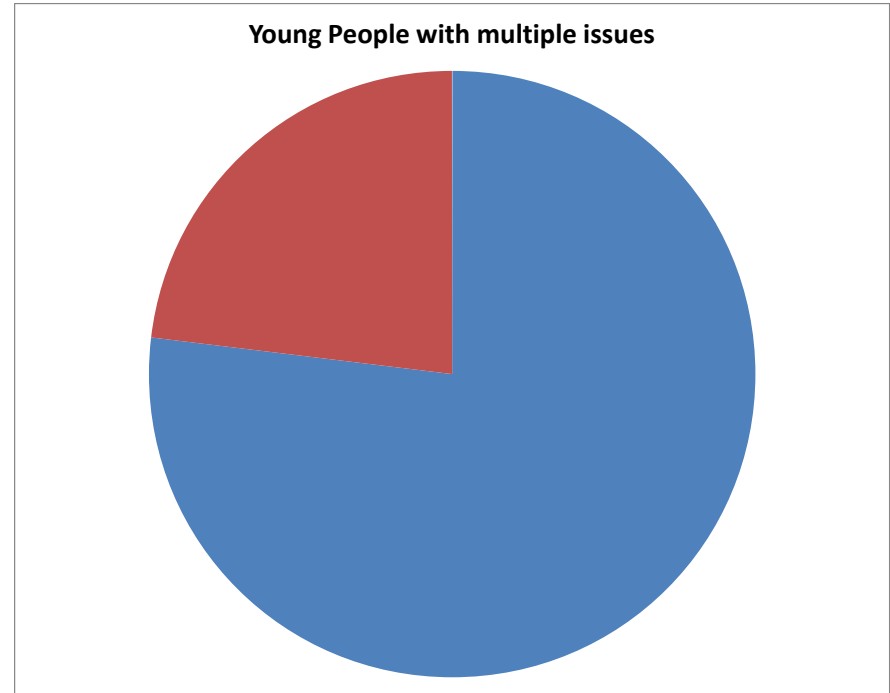
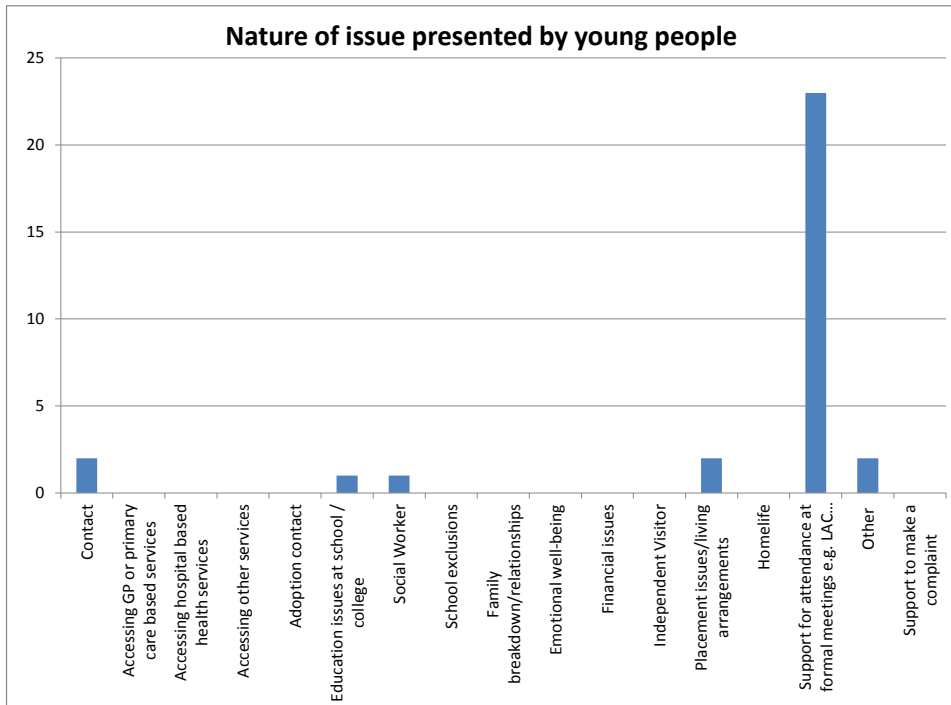
Referral source per young person



Sources of Referral - (Other) -8 IBA Referrals for young people received from Childrens Services: East Teams -ITT East 1- 1 referrals ,ITT East 3-1 referral. West Teams- ITT West 2 referrals. IRO Team-3 Referrals.

Location of Young People





Number of CP referrals made by Advocacy Service

0

There were no safeguarding referrals made to childrens services from NYAS this quarter.

OUTCOME:

NATURE OF ISSUES (Other)

SUPPORT IN MAKING A COMPLAINT

0

Additional Information

Further narrative on issues/trends (Systemic)

There were 35 active offer referrals made to NYAS compared to 9 in the previous quarter.

A new area of work within the Local Authority are the requests to provide an Independent person in secure reviews. At present this is on a spot purchase basis.

Examples/numbers of cases where interpretation services accessed for young people

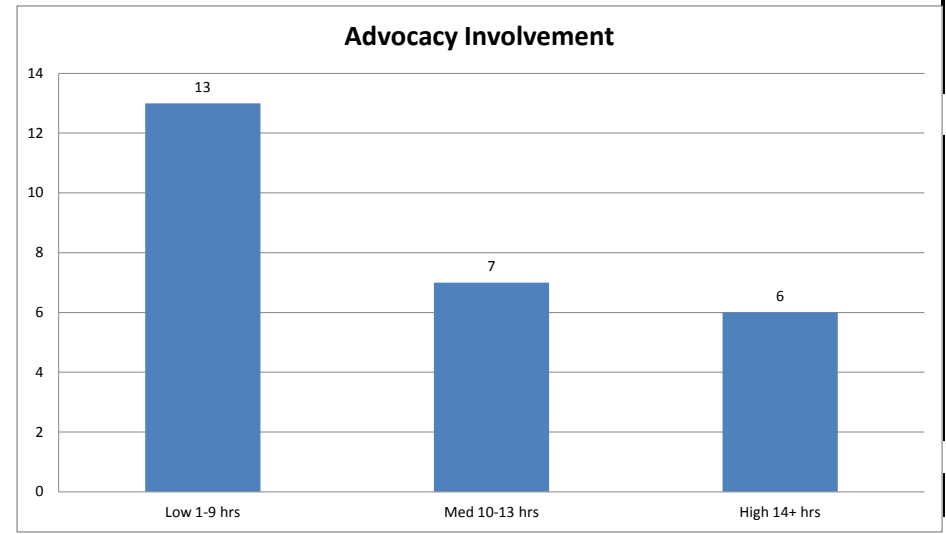
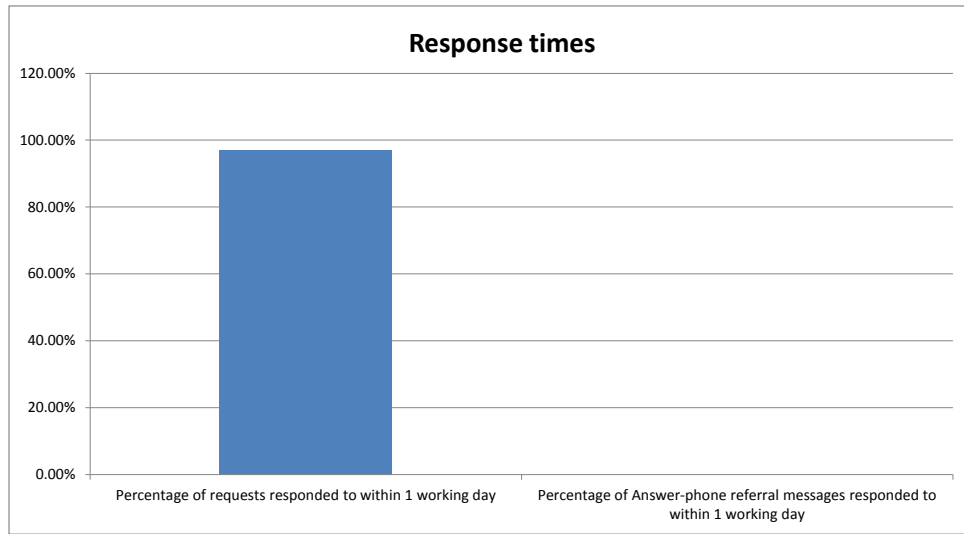
1 young person received Advocacy support with the aid of an Interpreter.

Requests to change an advocate

There were no requests to change an advocate this quarter.



Service Performance



<p>Number of cases closed - feeling advocacy had helped</p> <p>14 NYAS Feedback forms were received and 14 Feedback Cards ALL young people felt NYAS had made things better and they would recommend NYAS to someone else. Direct feedback provided included:-" I am much happier now and I feel more in control and understand the people I need to talk to for different things ."</p>	28
<p>Number of cases closed - not happy with response received from authority</p> <p>Comments: of the 28 cases closed no young people were unhappy with the response received from the local authority.</p>	0

<p>0 Number of complaints received about the advocacy services</p> <p>There were no complaints made regarding the advocacy service this quarter.</p>
<p>41 Number of compliments received about the advocacy services</p> <p>In addition to the 28 CYP who feedback Nyas also received 13 3rd Party compliments which included: CP Chair"NYAS Advocacy at todays review conference has enabled Professionals to consult with X as if they were here. I do feel that this has made a valuable contribution both to the meeting and in allowing the children to have an Independent Voice."</p>
<p>0 Number of requests to change an advocate</p> <p>No young people requested to change an advocate.</p>

Additional Information

Case Studies/Advocacy Action Plan

Case Study :- B -Aged 20-Care Leaver- with learning difficulties .

Background: Initial referral received from the 16 + Team Support Worker for B . who was 8 months pregnant . Childrens Services were applying for an Interim Care Order for the baby. The referral was for NYAS Advocacy support to be offered to B. the young mum.

The Advocate visited B to explain the role of Independent Advocacy support which included to stop, start or change something ,confidentiality and safeguarding .and to give a basic overview of the child protection process and how childrens service can provide support to B . B confided to the Advocate some traumatic life experience which the Advocate NYAS confirmed was known to Childrens Services. The advocate was also able to clarify current information which B was having difficulty in understanding .

Agreed Action: B. requested Advocacy support for the following request "I would like to have someone explain things so that I can understand . I know I definitely want to keep my baby. and be a good mum." B also requested advocacy support for attendance at a core group meeting with B. As B . requested the NYAS Advocate worked with B at each meeting and stage of the child protection process including PAMS assessment processes. The Advocate explained relevant issues and any concerns expressed by professionals. NYAS helped B to seek legal advice to challenge an initial negative PAMS assessment -as after the birth of the baby and later in a mother and baby placement B began to prove she could learn and be a good mother. B. also was informed and then requested to be referred by the Advocate to the NYAS Unity Project which provides information and additional practical support -to pregnant young women and girls .

Outcome: B. kept her baby and moved into her own flat. NYAS Unity Project continues to provide practical advice and support to B as a young mum.

Feedback

On the final feedback and case closure visit B. commented "My Advocate was amazing and excellent and was very good at explaining things to me. I would never have come this far without NYAS Advocacy."

3rd Party Feedback- The Guardian commented "Advocacy had a masive impact on B. and helped in enabling her to develop self-confidence and parenting skills and Professionals to see and recognise that development ensuring the best possible outcome for B. and her baby."

Looking forward - next quarter

NYAS Partnership working with RCT:-
NYAS are pleased that regular contract monitoring meetings with the Local Authority are now providing the opportunity to review and discuss service delivery and development.

NYAS welcomes the support and recommendations of the Local Authority to continue to develop an effective joint programme of work in 2018.

Networking/Children's Rights awareness-raising meetings with:

NYAS attended the RCT LAC Awards which provided the opportunity to join in celebrating the achievements of young people and to promote NYAS services to young people, foster carers and a range of Professionals.

NYAS met with Valleys Mind to discuss further collaborative working.

NYAS attended a contract monitoring meeting to review service delivery including the Active Offer of Advocacy and further develop the RCT Advocacy Operational Group.

NYAS Project Manager visited Brynda Community Home .

Publicity and Sharing

NYAS Publicity Leaflets and information for young people are currently under review. However, new active offer resources has been developed inclusive of leaflet for young people, resources for social workers and active offer definition posters .

Our NYAS website www.nyas.net also provides information on all current NYAS services, Participation opportunities and activities and collaborative work with other Organisations.

Participation Activity/Participation Activity

Peer Advocacy/Peer Mentoring- offer young people the opportunity to become Peer Advocates/Peer Mentors or Mentees with regard to Education, Employment and Training.

Full Circle and NYAS hosted a gender equality Conference in Cardiff. Attended by 250+ young people who discussed issues regarding gender equality and the barriers that young people face.

Guest speakers included Sally Holland CCO, Dr Emma Renold and Cardiff AM's. The day comprised of workshops and activities.

The Unity Project funded via the tampon tax provides practical and holistic support to young mums who themselves have been/are in care. The project also delivers healthy relationship workshops.

Staff training /supervision undertaken:

NYAS trained newly recruited staff on Advocacy in child protection processes.

All new Advocates completed the shadowing process.

NYAS staff attended the following Training:-

Risk Assessment and Self -Harm.

NYAS are continuing to recruit new Advocates and staff assisted in the recruitment process.

Service Improvements

Recommendations/Suggestions

As a crucial and key priority NYAS would like to continue to work with the Local Authority in ensuring that all children and young people are aware of the advocacy service and how to access it.

NYAS welcome the opportunity to discuss collaborative working with the Local Authority continuing to ensure a robust and effective referral process is established and all practitioners are aware of the Active Offer of Advocacy.